

COLORED PENCIL

Prepared exclusively for students of
ART INSTRUCTION SCHOOLS

CONTRIBUTORS

Chuck Gravem

Clifford Johnson

Richard Lack

Charles Murphy

Austra Ogulis

George Terp

Paul Van Demark

As you progress toward your career in art, perhaps your closest ally will be the pencil. From rough layouts to finished drawings, the pencil is certain to be one of your most effective tools. But as an artist, you will need another and equally important ally: color.

Now that you are familiar with the pencil and its best techniques, the most efficient and enjoyable way to introduce you to color is through the colored pencil.

This lesson will make use of your present knowledge of the pencil and add to your overall versatility because the techniques of the colored pencil are the same as those of the more familiar black pencil. The only real difference is the new and exciting element of color. To emphasize the increased potential of the colored pencil, you will be able to compare some of the black pencil drawings in the last lesson with colored pencil interpretations of the same picture in this lesson.

As you work with colored pencils, you will find the challenge of mixing various colors both stimulating and educational. And throughout your art career, you will find colored pencils vitally important for comprehensive layouts, preparations for painting finished cartoons, and a wide variety of commercial and fine art purposes.

Colored Pencils in Art

All the world loves color. And, since color is important to the artist, we want you to have a chance to begin using it in your art training as soon as possible. So, to begin your experience with color, we naturally start with another type of pencil . . . colored pencils. Colored pencils differ in two ways from the graphite pencils you have just studied. Not only do they have varied colors, but they also have a wax base lead which will not smear. You should find these pencils quite easy to work with and fun to use.

Your first goal in the use of color is control: control of a few colors at first . . . control of many later. All around us are thousands of color sensations. The artist must learn to recognize and use colors. First, he learns to see and identify them so that he knows exactly what he wants. Then, he learns how to match them to get the effects he wants.

As you work more and more with color, you will probably be a little surprised at what happens to the world around you. It will become a more beautiful place in which to live. Actually, the world won't change . . . you will. You'll find more and more colors around you and will become more aware of the many subtle changes in color that exist in nature. Already, you may see more of the colors around you than most of your friends and relatives. But, this difference will become greater in the months ahead as your appreciation of color continues to grow.



Pirates by Paul Van Demark.



Pottery Design by Charles Murphy.

As an art student, one of your goals should be to become a versatile artist, capable of working in many different mediums. An artist should not choose one medium to work with just because he likes it. Instead, he should choose the medium that will produce the effects he needs. To do this, he must be skilled in various mediums, or his range of effects is limited.

You will enjoy working with colored pencils as you begin your adventures in color. They are commonly used, and they are a versatile medium. Artists use them in all fields of art and in combination with wash, charcoal, pencil, watercolors and oils.

Colored pencils are not often used for "finished" art, but they are commonly used at various stages of art work in different fields. Industrial designers use colored pencils extensively. Advertising Artists frequently use them to create preliminary drawings (called "comprehensive roughs") to show clients how their final work will appear when completed in a more difficult, detailed drawing or painting in another medium. Cartoonists use colored pencils to show the placement of colors on a cartoon done for reproduction (they're often filled in by lower salaried artists, especially when syndicated). Illustrators use colored pencils to get visual ideas about final colors for illustrations which will appear in books, magazines and brochures. Some painters, who like to sketch "on the scene" without the trouble of squeezing out oil paints onto a palette, setting up an easel, and the resulting clean-up job, use colored pencils for quick sketches and color notes from which oil, pastel or watercolor paintings can later be done in the studio.

Actually wax is one of the finest binders and vehicles for color that can be found. Also, wax produces a particular brilliance and body of color that is difficult to match or equal in any other medium. After you have used them, you may become a colored pencil enthusiast as many other artists are.

Cartoon by Cliff Johnson.



Landscape by Richard Lack.

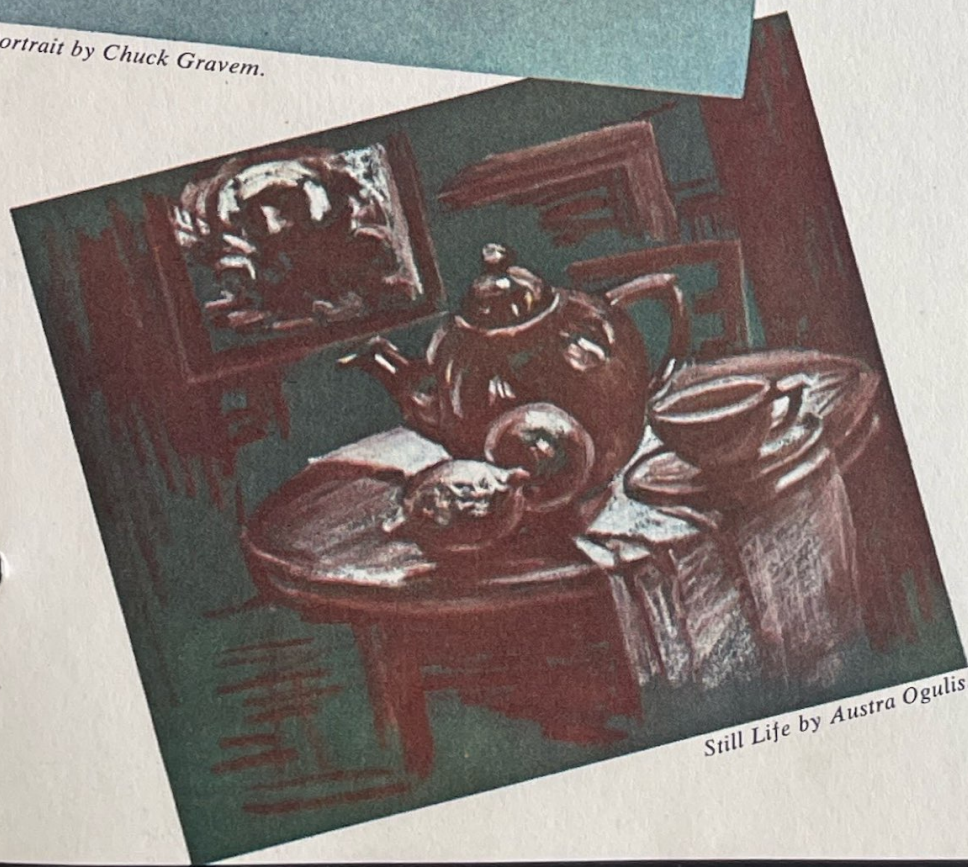




Zebra by Charles Murphy.



Portrait by Chuck Gravem.



Still Life by Austra Ogulis.

Problems and Proper Sharpening

Many artists prefer to sharpen their colored pencils with a single-edge razor blade or an X-acto knife. Because the lead is quite soft, it is necessary to sharpen the lead quite often, especially when doing fine, detailed work.

Colored pencils made by different companies, though identical in color, are often called by different names. For example, one company may call a light green pencil "Chartreuse," while a second company will name an identical green pencil "Apple Green." In this lesson we will refer to your colored pencils as just red, green, etc.

The art work in this colored pencil section was done with good quality wax-base colored pencils. These pencils are comparatively easy to use, they are available at most art supply stores, they don't smear easily, and they come in approximately 60 different colors.

Types of Colored Pencils

Basically, there are three types of colored pencils used by "serious" artists: wax-base colored pencils, water soluble colored pencils and pastel pencils.

The wax-base pencils are usually favored since they do not smear. However, the artist must be careful because they are difficult to erase.

Water soluble colored pencils are used in much the same way as wax-base pencils. However, the drawings are usually wetted with a brush and water as an advanced step. The result is quite pleasing when the art work is done by experienced artists because unusual effects are possible. However, the student usually finds it difficult to work with water soluble pencils since even normal perspiration on the hands will cause the colors to smear when touched.

Pastel pencils are excellent for adding details to a pastel drawing and are probably used primarily for that purpose. The lead in these pencils tends to break quite easily and pastels do smear unless a fixative is used. These two handicaps may be expensive for the beginning art student.

Many variety stores, dime stores, and drug stores sell inexpensive colored pencils. We don't encourage our students to buy this kind. Although they may be fine for young children to play with, they usually have hard leads which cannot be evenly applied and lack the color strength needed for good contrast.

Limited Colors

As you begin working with color, keep in mind that it is possible to produce beautiful drawings with only a few colors. In each of the drawings on this page, the artist used only two colors. However, you will notice that he worked on colored paper. By working on colored paper, you gain several advantages. First, the colored paper carries part of the tone of the drawing. Also, by using colored paper, you have the advantage of being able to work both lighter and darker than the paper.

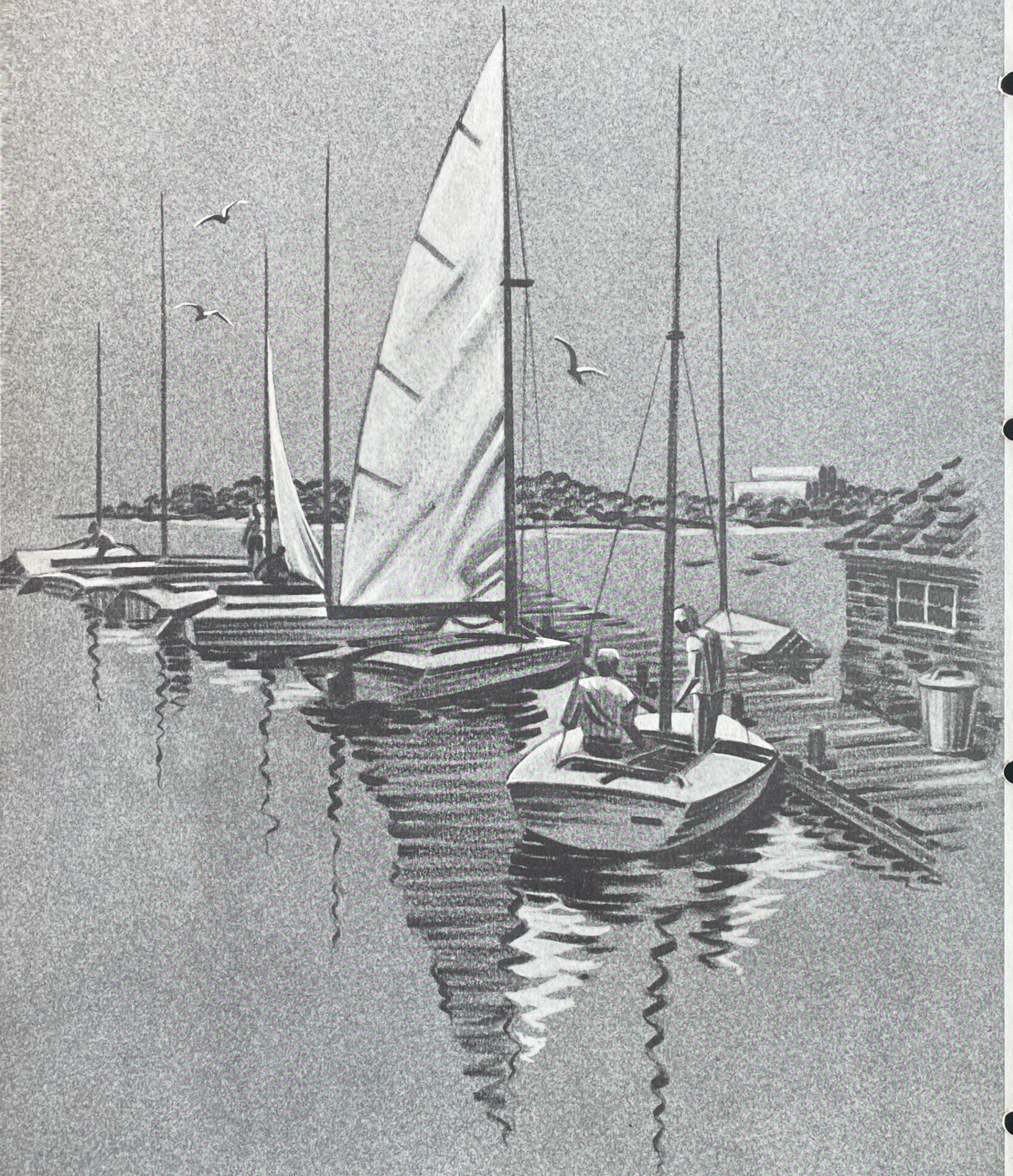
Although the three colors the artist used for his backgrounds were all middle values, you should experiment with both lighter and darker colored papers for your backgrounds. You can achieve some rich effects by working on darker paper.

You will also want to discover the effect of different colors on the same background. Regardless of the background color you use, you still have a full range of colors to choose from. However, stick to simple color combinations to begin with. We know you will be pleased by the results you can produce with just two or three colors.

WHAT TO DO

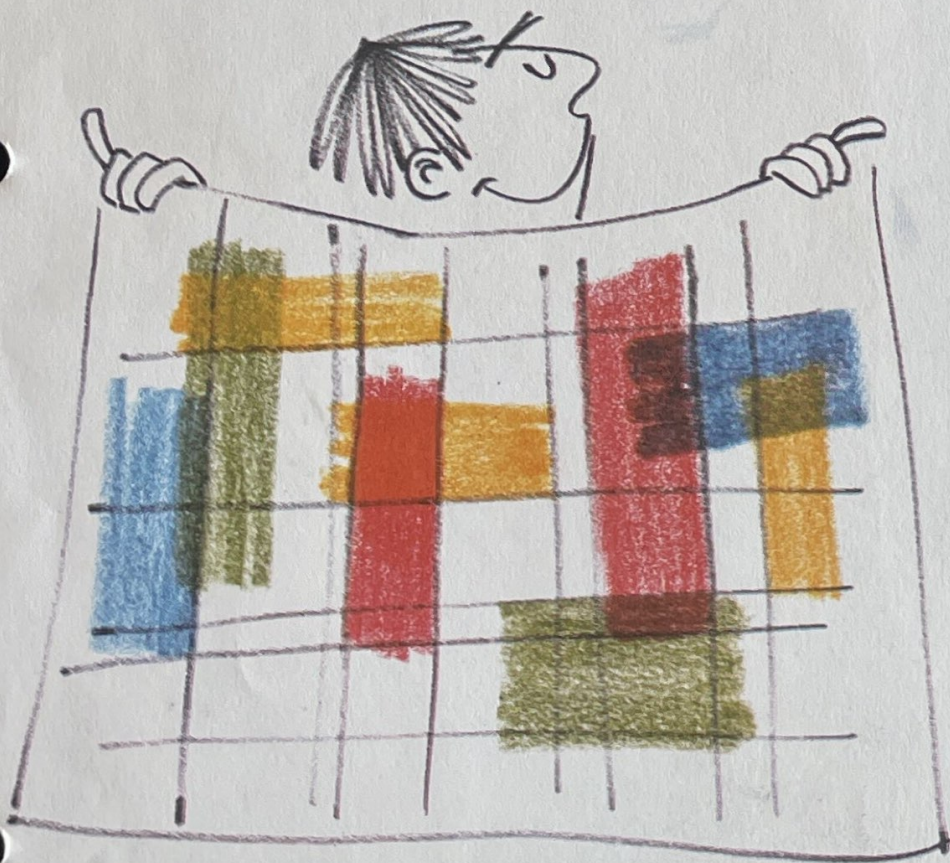
Turn to the exercises in the graphite pencil section which are called "Exercises with Fine Point" and "Exercises with Broad Point." Practice them with your colored pencils. It will help you to become better acquainted with wax-base pencils.

As you begin drawing with colored pencils, you will probably be surprised that the colors you get are different from those shown in the textbook. Don't expect your colors to look like those reproduced here since wax-base leads on paper are quite different from the same drawings reproduced with printer's ink.



Seascape by Jim Smith.

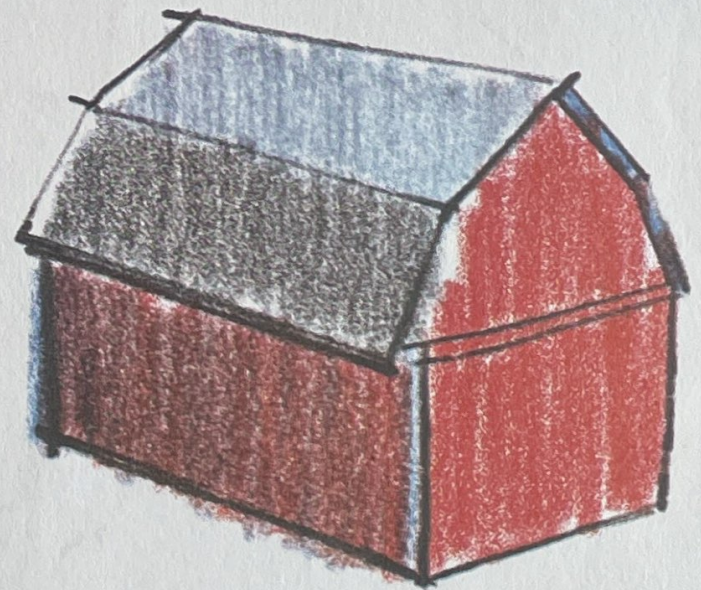
The drawing on the opposite page was rendered with two colored pencils on colored paper. The artist worked from the drawing done in graphite pencil for the previous lesson. A quick comparison will show you the dramatic effects colored pencils on colored paper will allow you to achieve.



Combining Colors

The overlapping of one color with a second color will produce a third color. A wax-base medium can't mix nearly so well as oils or watercolors, but the same general effects result. For example, when using a yellow colored pencil over a blue one the result will be a green. Similarly, the combination of red and blue will produce a shade of purple and red combined with yellow will give an orange color.

You can learn a great deal about the mixing of colors by doing a few simple sketches such as these. Read the captions and try them for yourself. Then originate others and experiment with different color combinations.



The leaf with the green outline was colored in with yellow and green. The upper half was then darkened with the addition of blue. The blue bordered leaf was colored green with blue added to the left side. The brown bordered leaf was colored yellow and the lower half was darkened by applying brown over the yellow.

The top section of the barn's roof was done with white over gray and a touch of blue. The lower roof section was done with black over gray. The end of the barn is red and the shadow side is red with blue and a touch of black placed over it.

The boy holding the blanket shows how you can get many interesting modern effects with just a few colored pencils and some creative imagination.

FROM PATIO TO PARTY



Casual Elegance



Art From Colored Photos

The famous Red Wing Potteries recently used this full color photograph in their national advertising. Mr. Charles Murphy, chief designer for the potteries, designed the dinnerware shown in the photograph and did the step-by-step demonstrations for the special COLORED PENCIL PRACTICE insert. He did one demonstration on white paper and one on colored background to show the different approaches necessary. Mr. Murphy says that he usually prefers working on colored paper in his own studio. He suggests that you not get discouraged when working on the white background because it will be more difficult to do a professional looking job. But, you will have fun trying your hand at this problem, and you will be learning a great deal about working with color.

WHAT TO DO

Study the step-by-step demonstrations provided for you on the special COLORED PENCIL PRACTICE insert. This professional artist shows you how he works in colored pencil. He says, "Although this is not the only way to approach this type of rendering problem, it is a method students will want to try."

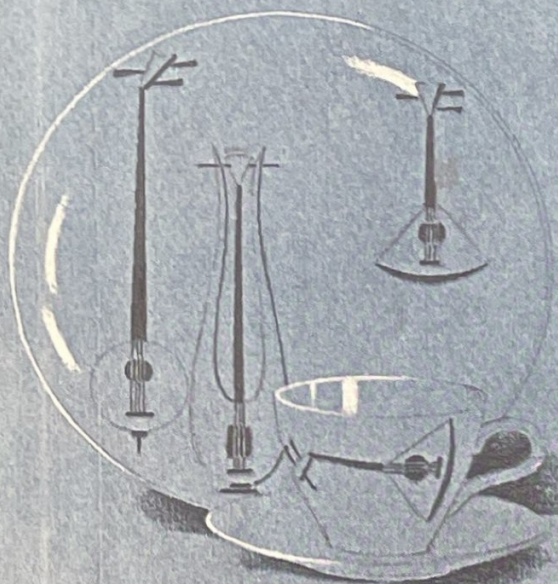
Color in all or part of the two outline drawings that have been provided for you. Take your time and do your best work. Follow the examples that have been provided. Being able to do what a professional artist has done will help you to understand how and why he follows this procedure.

After you complete your work on these two outlines, we recommend that you trace one of the designs and transfer it onto your own colored drawing paper for additional practice and experimentation with color.

COLORED PENCIL PRACTICE



COLORED PENCIL PRACTICE





The artwork on this page was done with colored pencils from an outline tracing of the student problem in the Pencil Drawing section. Only five pencils were used by the artist. You might like to trace the outline and try this exercise yourself. Not only will it be enjoyable work, but it will provide valuable experience with color.

The next two pages contain a step-by-step demonstration for your student problem in colored pencils. The captions under the artwork describe the steps the artist used to arrive at his full page, colored pencil drawing. Although this is not the only way you could approach your lesson assignment, it is a good way to work and you will want to try it.

COLORED PENCIL DRAWING LESSON

You are now ready to start your assignment for the Colored Pencil part of your course. We have provided you with two outlines to be used for your "Colored Pencil Lesson Assignment." One of the outlines is for practice and the other is to be completed and sent to the school.

Your assignment is to color this drawing just as it was rendered by the professional artist. Choose the right colored pencil for each area you do. If you take all of the time necessary to do a good job on this assignment, you will be pleased by the final results. Your work on this assignment will show us how well you have practiced the exercises in this lesson. Work carefully, be neat and refer constantly to the demonstration drawings.

Remember that you will not be able to match the colors in the reproduction shown in the textbook since it was printed with ink. However, if you work carefully with the correct pencils, your results should closely approximate the artist's original drawing of the birds.

When you have completed your assignment, send it to us for grading along with your colored pencil test, in the envelope marked, "Colored Pencil." While your drawing is being examined at the school, study your next lesson. Be sure to put your name, address and student number on the back of your drawing and also on the front of the envelope. This is very important, as it is the only way we have of identifying your assignments.



The artist began his drawing with black pencil on the birds and twigs, and started the white on the birds. Next he added more white, and began to develop the blue on the birds.



The third step involved applying green to some of the leaves and near completion of the birds. The artist works on several areas in each step because he considers the surrounding areas before completing any area in detail.



The artist finished the green on the leaves and began adding areas of blue over the green to create depth through the shading. His final rendering, in full color on the next page, shows his final step: adding more areas of blue, adding black over some areas of green and blue-green, and adding details and accents.



Checking up on Yourself

Do You Remember That:

1. Colored pencils are used in many different fields of art.
2. Three common types of colored pencils used in art are: wax-base, water soluble, and pastel pencils.
3. To obtain the best results with colored pencils, use finest quality pencils.
4. You shouldn't expect your colored pencil work to look like that reproduced in the textbook because wax base on paper is quite different from the same drawings reproduced with printer's ink.
5. There are many colors available in colored pencils. Some brands of good pencils have as many as 60 different colors to select from.
6. There are some problems involved in sharpening colored pencils. A good mechanical sharpener, a single-edge razor blade, or an X-acto knife may be used.
7. Using a colored paper gives an artist the advantage of having the paper carry part of the drawing, and also allows him to work both ways from the value of his background paper.
8. You can use any combination of colors that you think will produce the effect that you want in your rendering.
9. Combining two colors will give a third color or a different value of one of the two colors used.
10. The best way to become familiar with the results of combining colors is to experiment by combining two, three and more colors.

Did You:

1. Practice the exercises marked "What to Do?"
2. Go beyond the required exercises and try some of the suggested practice?
3. Experiment with color?
4. Enjoy yourself while experimenting with color?



COLORED PENCIL LESSON ASSIGNMENT

Student No. _____ Date _____

Name _____

Street No. _____

City _____ State _____